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RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHTC #0254 0741428  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
R 141428Z MAR 08  
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1230  
INFO RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 0240  
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 0334  
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 2909  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS 0635  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 4403

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 000254

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/13/2018  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PDEM](#) [NL](#) [LE](#)  
SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/LEBANON: NO PARTICIPATION IN 3/14  
CONFERENCE

REF: SECSTATE 24262

Classified By: Political Counselor Andrew Schofer for reasons 1.5(b) and (d)

(C) On March 14, Dutch MFA Lebanon Desk Officer Peter van der Bloemen told poloff that the Netherlands was not sending a representative to the March 14 conference. The Dutch fully supports the Siniora government's efforts to end the political crisis but do not want to participate in a partisan conference. The Dutch hope the Arab League plan can be the basis for a compromise and that the government can reach a power-sharing agreement with the opposition. In addition, the Netherlands wishes to maintain a low profile in Lebanon due to its hosting of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. Finally, the Netherlands closed its embassy in Lebanon on March 13 and 14 due to security concerns.  
Gallagher